**Survey Related to Performance of Overseas Joint Ventures**

1304. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a survey relating to the performance of overseas joint ventures of Indian Firms;

(b) if so, whether the analysis revealed that the returns on the outflows have not matched the projections made at the time of setting up of the joint ventures; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the weaknesses of Indian joint ventures abroad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Although functioning of Indian JVs abroad has resulted in net inflows of foreign exchange, a recent analysis of some larger Indian JVs revealed that repatriation projections made at the time of application have not been fully met by actual performance.

(c) In order to promote Indian JVs abroad, and to facilitate their operation, Govt. have liberalised the procedures for establishment of Indian JVs and introduced greater flexibility in their functioning.

**Setback to MMTC**

1305. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) wheher the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has received a set-back in its international trade after trade liberalisation; and

(b) what steps are being taken to improve ihe performance of the MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Consequent to the decentralisation of import and export of a number of items which were calised through MMTC, the turnover of the Corporation has shown a declining trend.

The Corporation has sought to offset the steep declining in turnover by (i) consolidation of business in existing lines (ii) diversification of products and market for exports, import and domestic trade (iii) creation of captive sources of supply for exports (iv) increasing sales promotion measures and (v) rationalisation and cost control.

**Alternative to ESI Scheme**

£ 1306. SHRI AHMED MOHAMMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Gujarat has taken up with the Central Government the issue of implementing an alternative to Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS);

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has pointed out to the Central Government that there had been large number of complaints against poor service rendered by the ESI Scheme;

(c) if so, whether State Government of Gujarat has suggested to the Central Government an alternative Scheme to the ESIS which could be used for better service to the persons covered under the Scheme; and

(d) what is the Central Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a proposal from the Anklashwar Industries Association suggesting an alternative Scheme for the Anklashwar area has been received by the ESI Corporation through the Government of Gujarat. The proposal is under examination of the ESI Corporation.

**ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries in Maharashtra and Gujarat**

1307. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of E.S.I. Hospitals and Dispensaries functioning in the State

£ Previously Unstarred Question 443, transferred from 7th December, 1993.